

Data and Methodology

Data on North Carolina pharmacists were analyzed by the North Carolina Health Professions Data System using licensure data from the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy. These data represent all pharmacists actively practicing in the state of North Carolina and are based on yearly snapshots effective October of each year. All data are self-reported by the pharmacist at time of initial application for licensure and subsequent renewals. When analyzing the dynamics in pharmacist supply between years, newly licensed pharmacists are those who are new to file with a license date in the current or previous year. Status change pharmacists are those who were licensed in NC in an earlier year but were either inactive or active out of state in the previous year. Pharmacists can be licensed by exam or by reciprocity. Pharmacists who become licensed by reciprocity are those individuals who have been actively practicing in other states.

National pharmacist data were accessed from the Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2010 (129th Edition), U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2009; <http://www.census.gov/statab/www/>. Earlier editions are available at http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/past_years.html.

North Carolina population data were retrieved from the Office of State Planning and U.S. population data were accessed from the U.S. Census Bureau. Population data are dependent on the year, and are corrected census counts (April 1, 1970, 1980, 1990 or 2000), or the estimates or projections from the data source (April 1, 2000, 2010; July 1, other years). All years subsequent are projected. A projection differs from an estimate in that it relies on certain assumptions about long-term trends in data, which are not yet available, while an estimate is always based on data from predictor variables, which are available for the estimate year.

A list of the location and year of establishment of US pharmacy programs (shown in **Figure 18**) was generated from the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS), the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Additional information was verified at individual college of pharmacy websites. This list may not include all satellite locations.

Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan status definitions were derived from the Office of Management and Budget's Core Based Statistical Areas, and are current as of the November 2008 update. Nonmetropolitan counties include micropolitan and counties outside of CBSAs.

Persistent Health Professional Shortage Areas (PHPSAs) are derived from the Area Resource File, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Persistent HPSAs are those designated as HPSAs by HRSA from 1999 through 2005, or in 6 of the last 7 releases of HPSA definitions. Current HPSA designations can be found at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>.

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